

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226096

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS, SHUM, SREF

SUBJECT: PINOCHET'S SECOND ANNIVERSARY SPEECH

1. AMBASSADOR TRUCCO MET WITH ARA PRINCIPALS SEPT 22 TO DISCUSS HIS RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN SANTIAGO. HE LAMENTED THAT ON HIS RETURN HE FOUND A GENERAL LACK OF UNDERSTANDING IN WASHINGTON REGARDING THE INTERNAL SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOC. HE CHARACTERIZED THESE AS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD AND REFLECTING A CONSIDERABLE ADVANCE OVER THE SITUATION A YEAR AGO. HE CLAIMED THAT WITH REDUCTION OF THE STATE OF SIEGE BY ONE STEP THE MAJORITY OF CASES PROCESSED BY MILITARY TRIBUNALS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO SUPREME COURT REVIEW. ONLY IN EXTREME CASES WAS THIS NOT THE SITUATION.

2. WITH RESPECT TO WASHINGTON POST STORY (SEE WIRELESS FILE OF SEPT 22), TRUCCO SAID HIS REMARKS HAD BEEN DISTORTED. HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY DIUGUID IF THE IAHRC WOULD BE ACCEPTED IN CHILE. HE SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN THAT THE COMMISSION HAD NEVER BEEN REJECTED BY CHILE, IT HAD VISITED CHILE AND
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SUBMITTED A REPORT, AND THE GOC HAD JOINED IN THE GENERAL

ASSEMBLY COMMUNIQUE REGARDING DISPOSITION OF THE REPORT. THE OAS COMMISSION HAD NOT SUGGESTED A FOLLOW-UP VISIT SO THERE WAS NOTHING TO ACCEPT. HE ASSUMED DIUGUID HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH ORFILA AND THIS WAS BEHIND THE REPORTER'S QUESTION. TRUCCO SAID HE HAD ALSO INFORMALLY DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE OAS S/G BUT NEVER IN THE CONTEXT OF A NEW OAS INVESTIGATION.

3. TRUCCO SAID HE SUGGESTED TO PINOCHET THAT A GROUP OF PRESTIGIOUS INDIVIDUALS BE INVITED TO CHILE TO EVALUATE THE SITUATION. THIS GROUP COULD CONSIST OF ALLANA OF THE UN WORKING GROUP, AGUILAR OF THE IAHC, AND FACIO OF COSTA RICA. HE FELT ALLANA WOULD NOT VISIT CHILE BY HIMSELF. PINOCHET GAVE HIM A FREE HAND TO PURSUE THIS IDEA. AT THE SAME TIME, PINOCHET HAD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT ANY FUTURE VISITS BE FREE OF THE FANFARE THAT HAD PRECEDED THE EXPECTED ARRIVAL OF THE WORKING GROUP. TRUCCO SAID HE SEES THIS PROPOSED VISIT NOT SO MUCH AS THAT OF AN INVESTIGATIVE TEAM BUT RATHER AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET PINOCHET TOGETHER WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO COMMISSIONS AND OTHERS. THEY COULD INFORMALLY REFLECT TO THE PRESIDENT HOW CHILE IS SEEN ABROAD. HE EXPECTS SUCH AN EXPOSURE WOULD BROADEN PINOCHET'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM AND HOPEFULLY REINFORCE THOSE MODERATES IN CHILE WHO COUNSEL FOR AN EASING OF INTERNAL SECURITY PRACTICES.

4. TRUCCO IS ALSO ENCOURAGING A SCHWEITZER VISIT TO THE U.S., WHOM HE FEELS BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE CAN EXPLAIN THE LEGAL SITUATION TO U.S. AUDIENCES. THE TIMING WOULD BE CONSONANT WITH THE IAHC SESSION COMMENCING OCTOBER 6 AND LASTING THROUGH THE MONTH. THIS WOULD GIVE SCHWEITZER AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH AGUILAR. FOR OUR PART, WE AGREED TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INVITATION TO SCHWEITZER FROM THE NEW YORK MUNICIPAL BAR WHICH THE JUSTICE MINISTER CAN USE AS A VEHICLE TO COME TO THE U.S. WE WOULD PUT TOGETHER A PROGRAM TO MAXIMIZE HIS EXPOSURE.

5. COMMENT: WE EXPECT TRUCCO WILL HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME
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PUTTING TOGETHER AN ALLANA/AGUILAR/FACIO VISIT. THE UN OFFICIALS' RELUCTANCE IS ALREADY CLEAR AND FACIO, AS YOU WILL NOTE FROM ARA/BC LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 12, IS ALSO HOLDING OFF THE CHILEANS UNTIL HE CAN GET A GOOD READING ON ANY POSITIVE MEASURES THE GOC IS PREPARED TO MAKE. WE EXPECT TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH FACIO AT THE UN. ON SCHWEITZER, WE NOTE SOME EMBASSY REPORTING THAT HE MAY NOT WELCOME A VISIT TO THE U.S. TO DO THE CHORE FORESEEN BY

TRUCCO. WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON THIS
POINT. INGERSOLL

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